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## Adieu Varsity!

### Welcome to the new Innis Herald

#### New editors plan world domination.

by Corey Katz & Stephanie Silverman

Welcome to the first Innis Herald of the 2002-2003 academic year and the beginning of what will hopefully be a long and fruitful relationship! You might have noticed that the Herald has a new look, and that this September issue is skinnier than usual and there is a reason for these changes: This issue is essentially a "test" issue, and is meant to serve as a way for the incoming editors-in-chief, Corey Katz and Stephanie Silverman, to introduce ourselves and the staff, familiarize you with the new layout, and forshadow the new direction that we hope the Herald will follow in the future.

#### New Direction

When we were asked if we'd like to be the new editors-in-chief of the Herald, we jumped at the chance. We knew the quality of the paper had been growing over the past few years, but we also knew that in the '70s the Herald was the essential voice of UofT's radical College. We saw an opportunity to kickstart the paper back towards its roots of politics and discussion. We envision the paper as a medium through which intelligent opinion-pieces can comment on the state of the university specifically, as well as the world in

countined on page 2...

### Who was this Harold Innis anyway?

#### The College principal dishes the dirt on the man who created his job.

by Frank Cunningham

The building north of Innis College houses the Department of Economics. Meanwhile, the Department of Political Science is in Sidney Smith Hall, two blocks south. It was not always so. Until 1983 there was the single Department of Political Economy. Harold Innis was the head of that department from the late 1930's until close to his death in 1952, and he is regarded as the founder of Canadian political economy itself.

Innis would not have been pleased to know that the College named after him would physically separate the Political Science and Economics Departments. Nor in his time was he satisfied with the academic fission between the social sciences and historical and cultural disciplines. By contrast, he laid the basis for the work of his younger

colleague, Marshall McLuhan, in studying the effects of methods of communication on politics, economics, culture, and even religion.

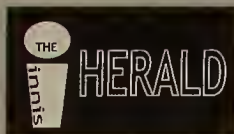
Though we take it for granted that the "True North" is a single political entity, the naturalness of this fact is not obvious, given our striking regional differences, most pointing North/South rather than East/West. Moreover, each region is characterized by inequalities between metropolitan centres and rural areas dependent on them as is the country as a whole, first with respect to England then to the United States. Having been raised in the rural community of Otterville, Ontario, Innis understood hinterland/metropolitan tensions first hand. He also explained these facts by appeal to the

continued on page 3...

## feature September

The Herald's new Editor-in-Chief brings you the article that was too controversial for The Varsity, here for the first time in its original form.

see page 7



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DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:  
 Monday, September 30, 2002

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**Film Editors**  
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## The Editors Speak

...continued from the front page.

general. We want to use the Herald as the catalyst for a renaissance within our College, and have it serve as an important forum through which people will be encouraged to voice their opinions and ask tough questions. We want the paper to be considered "radical" again, even if the college isn't.

Moreover, we feel that the Herald has an important role to play in building a stronger sense of community at the College. Many other Colleges at UofT have long histories and long-standing traditions in which members of the College might take part and gain a feeling of community. Unfortunately, it seems that this sense of self is lacking at Innis College despite the advantages of small size. Since the College houses some of the most forward-thinking departments on campus, those of Environmental Studies, Urban Studies and Cinema Studies as well as some academic writing courses, we feel that it is time to get the students of Innis College aware of, and involved in, the activities planned by these departments and their corresponding student unions. Furthermore, we understand that students who commute to school every day, and who might only step into the College once a year to visit the Registrar's office, surely find it difficult to get involved in the College. We want to make the Herald a welcoming place for these, and all, students, no matter if their interests lie in writing, editing, drawing or even accounting. We're working on ensuring that the Innis Herald office is regularly staffed so that students will feel welcome enough to stop by and chat with the staff about the paper or even life in general. We want every Innis student to feel that they have something to contribute to the paper (because they do), and we want to act as mediators to get them involved.

We have some ideas to try to increase submissions to the paper and reach out to those who want to be involved but don't know how. We hope to sponsor debates and speakers to help students get their creative juices flowing. We hope to act as a link between those who want to write but have no ideas, and those who have ideas but who do not have the time or the inclination to write.

### New Section & Layout

As part of this new direction, we felt that the paper needed more reader-friendly sections and layout. The *From the Editors* section will be more than just a vehicle through which we can expound our personal philosophies and settle our grievances; it will hopefully help sew the seeds of discussion and become a means through which we can respond to the letters that we hope will flow in as the content of the paper evolves. The *Community* section will be a source for articles detailing the happenings and goings-on around the College, and will serve as a permanent space for material pertaining to the College's departments and student unions. The Arts & Lit section has been restructured into the *Arts & Entertainment* section where we will have intersperse music, theatre and

Think you can do better? Tell us to our faces!

Come to the Innis Herald's first general meeting of the year.

Thursday, September 19th.  
 Room 108, Innis College



The Herald's new editors-in-chief enjoy newspapers. Do you?

drama reviews with student drawings, photography and creative writing. We have also instituted a *Features* section that will consist of an in-depth report on a current issue. Film continues to qualify for its own section due to the integral nature of film and cinema to the College's character. We have kept the *Opinions* section, and hope that this component becomes one of the major sections of the paper, chalk-full of your opinions and arguments. The back page is the home for a newly-created Events listing that will keep the community informed on everything from CINSSU's *Free Friday Films* to the intramural sports games sponsored by the College.

In terms of layout, we have attempted to present a slightly more reader-friendly layout. In this issue you will also find a short survey inquiring on your thoughts on the new layout and your ideas for future issues. If you have the time to write even some brief comments, we would really appreciate it if you would drop it off at the Innis Herald office (across from the Innis College Café). After all, we need your help if we want to keep our job to keep making a paper you want to read.

## WANTED: Layout manager seeks young eager minds.

The Innis Herald is looking for dedicated students to be part of our layout team. No previous experience is necessary.

### Interested?

Come to an information session  
 Wednesday, September 18<sup>th</sup> at  
 5:00pm inside Innis College Cafe.

Questions? Can't make it?  
 Contact Mark Greenberg at  
 mark.greenberg@utoronto.ca.



## ENSU Events

### What's going on in the the Environmental Students Union.

Sept. 6: Students' Administrative Council (SAC) Day (Orientation Week)

Come out and meet ENSU members on SAC day, sign up for our mailing list and find out what we have planned for the upcoming year.

Sept. 22: Car Free Day

Enjoy St. George Street free from motor vehicles, bring your friends, relax on the lawn, listen to some great music and participate in the days activities.

Sept. 27-29: Planet in Focus  
Toronto International Environmental Film and Video Festival

Screenings of international films with an environmental or social focus. The festival also hosts workshops and discussions right on campus. For more information, check out [www.planetinfoocus.org](http://www.planetinfoocus.org)

Sept. 19: ENSU Member Mixer

If you would like to get involved with, or have ideas for, environmental initiatives on campus, we welcome you to join us. This is a great opportunity to mix and mingle with the environmental community on campus.

October: ENSU's Cabin Weekend

ENSU and the University of Toronto Outing Club (UTOOC) encourage anyone interested in a fun-filled weekend in the outdoors to participate in the cabin weekend coming up this October. It will be a blast!

November: Youth Activism

Please join us for a speaker event on youth activism. The speaker panel will be comprised of several youth who have been key in bringing issues like bullying, the health and environmental effects of pesticides, and gay equality to the forefront. Don't miss it!

## What is CINSSU?

### Calling all film buffs.

The Cinema Studies Student Union (CINSSU) is a group of film nuts, cinemaphiles, and confused weirdos who hate sex. Maybe you'd fit in. We hold informal meetings every Friday at 5pm and all UoT students with an unhealthy interest in film are welcome to join. Just show up any Friday at 5 at our office in room 107 (in Innis College just south of Carrotheads cafeteria). Oh, except that we're really mean and we resent newcomers.

The main thing we do is program a series of free films (ie. not videos) called Free Friday Films. We also organize sneak previews, lectures, and other film-related events. As a student union we represent and advocate on behalf of cinema studies students when/wherever that needs to be done.

All Free Friday Films start at 7pm and are held in Innis Town Hall (2 Sussex Ave.).

Arrive early as seats fill fast.



**CINSSU presents Rushmore on September 7th, 2002.**

### Upcoming Free Friday Films:

September 7: Rushmore  
September 13: The Royal Tenenbaums  
September 20: Eloge de L'Amour  
September 27: No Free Friday Film  
October 4: The Gleaners and I  
October 11: My Own Private Idaho  
October 18: Repulsion

## A brief tale of Harold Innis

### ...continued from front page.

economic history of Canada, based on a trade economy of "staples" -- fur, fish, timber, hydro-electrical energy -- and the rail and communication lines required to move staples from their origins to metropolises.

Drawing upon anthropology and history, Innis distinguished between the effects of oral traditions, which emphasize interpersonal dialogue and egalitarianism in knowledge, and writing, which promotes impersonal historical memory and lends itself to elite control of knowledge. Further, he drew a distinction between ancient, "time-based" forms of communication, which, being difficult to transport, such as clay tablets and parchment, reinforce community tradition, and modern, "space-based" forms such as print and electronic media conducive to large-scale political administration, science and technology. In two impressive studies, *Empire and Communications*

and *The Bias of Communication*, Innis described the moral, economic, and political advantages and disadvantages of these forms of communication.

Harold Innis died 12 years before the College was founded, but we come by our name honestly. The Cinema Studies Programme and writing courses directly address communications media; the College was home to the University's only effort to mount an Interdisciplinary Studies Programme (1969-74); and Environmental and Urban Studies are interdisciplinary. Moreover, the College strives to maintain social and political structures and mores conducive to interaction among our students, who, like the faculty, exhibit a wide range of academic interests. As Principal, I urge you to take advantage of opportunities for such interaction. Thus will the legacy of Harold Innis continue to be more than just a name on the building and some pictures in its halls.

## Looking to turn the piss to wine

### The Opinions editor sounds off.

by **Steven Jug**

Steven Jug again shoulders the power and the responsibility of the opinion section in the Innis Herald. But the Innis Herald that Steven Jug returns to will not be more of the same. Instead, the Innis Herald of 2002-2003 will be new and radical. Readers may wonder how the paper will become more radical. Will it mean changing the rest of the paper while leaving the opinion section, the paper's most radical section last year, as it was? No. Will it mean a new staff with view and principles outside the mainstream? Probably. Will Steven Jug try to throw the bomb for the rest of the staff with new opinion surveys and right-left point counterpoint articles? Yes. Is this a test? It

has to be; otherwise Steven Jug can't go on.

Wait, some readers may think. Surely Steven Jug knows that many radicals in the past went to university as spoiled children of the privileged classes, yet shook the world as never before. True, but that sort of radical is dead, slandered, and forgotten. More explicitly, the Herald staff is not composed of world-shakers. Who then, readers may ask, can truly make the Innis Herald a radical, meaningful voice in a chorus of pseudo-intellectualism and triviality? Who can save it from another year of reprinted Madonna lyrics and reviews of Schwarzenegger films? The answer is you. Only you can fight back against those who

wish to destroy Steven Jug's fragile faith in student radicalism. Only you can stop them. How can this mean anything to Steven Jug if he doesn't really feel anything at all? Steven Jug calls upon those radically minded individuals to help him save the opinion section with their submissions. Those who oppose radical views are equally welcome to contribute. Steven Jug would much rather receive honest apologies for this world so ripe with decay, rather than expressions of 'let's vote NDP and then go shopping' radicalism. Help shut Steven Jug's big mouth, because he cannot do it alone! *He-who-has-already-been-named is hoping to escape real life by becoming a professor.*

## Opinions

## Arts & Entertainment

### Introducing... Arts & Entertainment.

by Alice Klm

With the start of a school year comes the creation of this new section. Now combining arts with entertainment, the Innis Herald will explore new territory and attain its highest level of creativity yet. Similar to the Arts and Literature component of issues gone by, the newly established Arts and Entertainment section might include various pieces from the worlds of photography, cartoon, poetry, and whatever else you deem artful or entertaining. Showcasing the talents of university students, A&E will be a resource for Hart House theatre reviews, Uoft dance previews, and other works by students on campus and off. Record reviews and artist profiles will round out our section as we attempt a multilayered approach within this newspaper. Since art is in the eye of the beholder, after all, this section will be open to almost all submissions, so take advantage and show off your talents today!

To make a suggestion or comment, for more information on submissions or to contribute to the A&E team, please email us at [ae\\_herald@yahoo.com](mailto:ae_herald@yahoo.com)

### "NumbersXthree"

by Anna Leung

Numbers numbers numbers  
a trio of repetition  
an explosion of cosmic understanding  
a repulsion that was  
but now is resurrected from the depths  
of a mind that speaks solid  
cellular reformation  
soulful cleansing  
a bath with the devil  
in water that tastes like fire  
and you dissolve in the solitude  
the sin washing you  
you washing sin  
and you look up and the ceiling  
falls  
novas come out from  
some bleak existence  
and then a wave of absolution  
quick review of the night's events  
bottled words in chalkboard dust  
and the realization that in fact there is life  
out there within reach  
where you walk shoulder to shoulder with the disc  
that sears your skin but provides the light  
and suddenly,  
the numbers come out  
shadows retracted from humanity  
beauty raised from cremation ash  
and words smeared all over the sidewalk  
there is a god.

advertisement

**401 Ways to Find Your Niche**  
**Thursday Nights at Klinik**

### Spittin' in my eye

Kiera Ormut-Fleishman reviews four recent punk records.

The Vermicious Knid  
**DAYS THAT STAND STILL**  
*Antiantenna Recordings*

I come to this band with a huge bias, simply because I can't stand their name, nor do I know what "math-rock" (their self-described sound) is. However, once I got past all that and slipped in their disc, I was anything but disappointed. Their sound is a cross between emo-punk and indie-rawk and a rather pleasing one at that. Not really music to sing along to but instead to enjoy as a soundtrack to those blizzard days of winter when everything's grey. Their only downfall is that they have the same nice guitar riffs interspersed with loud, distorted chords that are typical of most emo bands so there's nothing really to make them stand apart. But maybe that's where their name comes in; once you listen to an album by the Vermicious Knid you'll surely remember it if only for their name. Bottom Line: Good music but you've heard the type before.

<http://www.ANTIANTENNA.com>

Switchblade Kittens  
**HEY PUNK TRY HEROINE[S]**  
*independent*

On their "award-winning" website, the Switchblade Kittens tout themselves as "pop-punk". This is almost correct but an emphasis needs to be placed on the pop. This band is straight out of California and are comprised of three females playing bass and drums, and the token male playing the "Bassorama". It seems that this band rose to fame by running a bass through an effects processor to give it a guitar-sound. Interesting idea, but I fail to see the point in that. Drama, the lead singer, reasoned that guitar players came with too much ego, hence no guitar. Most of the band members reference Blink 182 as their main musical influence and it is fair to take this citation as an indication of their own sound. Though undeniably poppy, this record nevertheless

has some potential to kick around in your head for awhile so check out their website for mp3s and, if you dig that, a chance to order their album.

<http://www.switchbladekittens.com>

NOFX  
**45 OR 46 SONGS THAT WEREN'T GOOD ENOUGH TO GO ON OUR OTHER RECORDS**

*Fat Wreck Chords*

NOFX are wrong. So very wrong. This double-album is chockful of some of my favorite songs that were a hassle to listen to as I only owned them as part of some other stinkin' compilation record. Now NOFX have made it easy to listen to all their Rancid covers and other previously-hidden secret songs by putting them on this disc. Old favorites like "Vincent", and "We Threw Gasoline..." are mixed with versions of songs that didn't make it on previous albums, like a dub mix of "Eat the Meek". Definitely a great double album and something no NOFX fan should be without.

Audio Karate  
**SPACE CAMP**  
*Kung Fu Records*

Audio Karate have a classic emotional punk song that is very reminiscent of labelmates such as the Ataris. So similar actually that you can't help but realize why Kris Roe (of the Ataris) decided to sign them on. Though they are almost duplicates, their clone-like behaviour works because Karate seems to have fulfilled that age-old aspiration of a student to surpass his teacher. It drove Mozart and it drives these boys since they are more fueled with energy and can boast stronger tunes than the Ataris. They definitely deserve the recent hype that they've been receiving. If you like emo, your chances are good that this Karate will deliver that kick to the heart that emokids so desire and musicophiles lust after.



by Mari Chijiwa



## The start of the Pulsebeat

Columnist Vanessa Meadu has her ear to the ground and her pen to the paper.

It's ridiculous, but one of the first things I did when I got back to Toronto after over a month in Europe was to open up a local weekly and breathe a sigh of relief. Scanning all the listings for upcoming shows and reading reviews of stuff I'd missed suddenly and thankfully brought me back to my hometown reality.

Obviously there were shows to be seen and music to be heard in the famously glittery and frequently obnoxious scenes in London and Edinburgh; however, I didn't get to experience any as a result of my threadbare pockets and the fact that the Indigo Girls were the only worthwhile act to be considered during my stay. In fact, as someone who survived her early teens due to a bittersweet Britpop-rock diet, I thought that going to London would be like visiting Mecca. Oh how very wrong I was. The experience left me sentimental and hopeful about the Toronto music scene and its diversity (not to mention affordability). Now that I'm back I have visions of Kid Koala, Clinic, and the Constantines rockin' like sweaty sugarplums in my left-brain, as I wade through what the near distant future has in store.

## my on the road

by olaf brave

the ground; alive at 130  
colours blur and melt  
the yellowed grass (green)  
liquifies into an Impressionist (with a smudge here  
and a smudge there) landscape  
(a sneeze)

if I recall that fateful day --  
the laws of physics were on our side (for once)

a crow on a stumpsmudge  
branches dripsmudge

the sky clears for a bird  
sharpness  
it's the only thing that matters

air ride equipped  
hydrogen peroxide and corn starch  
employee emergency evacuation gathering point  
with french fries  
cigarettes and Mexicans

is it raining?

whizzing by at 120 the trees dance  
between the clearings  
their trunks arranged; offset  
flashes of grey  
I wish there were leaves (evergreens don't count)  
turning away

Thinking up a title for this column was a heavy challenge. The name came to me while driving around listening to a Buzzcocks tape I picked up in London. 'Moving Away From the Pulsebeat', from their 1978 debut, is a sweet punk-love song about a girl who used to live too fast but is taking it slow now that she's met her boy. The thought of slowing down a bit might make some scenesters recoil but I learned last year that trying to stay on top and catch every show or new recording that came my way left me tired and broke, and not necessarily any happier. So here I am this year, choosing quality over quantity, and hoping there'll be some sweet surprises along the way.

As the newly revamped *Innis Herald* sheds its bandages, read along and keep in touch with the

## Strung Out and loving it

by Steffi Daft

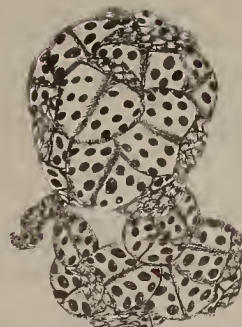
American Paradox

**STRUNG OUT**

*Fat Wreck Chords*

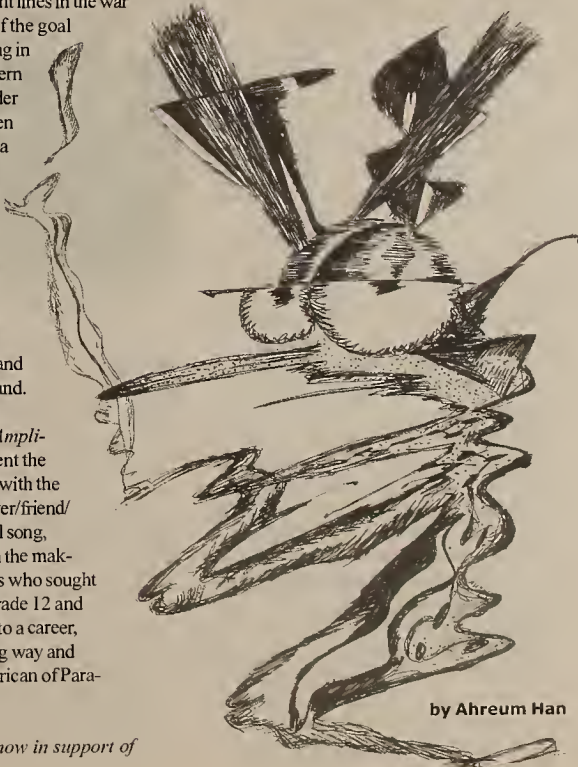
Although some critics may warn of the impending death of punk due to high levels of pop, others contend that the scene will survive as long as bands like Strung Out continue to fight the good fight. With their high-energy, melody-infused particular brand of punk rawk, the boys from Ventura, California are perhaps among the last to remain standing on the front lines in the war to keep America aware. If the goal of punk is to infuse meaning in to the music, and the modern industry zeitgeist is to render the audience senseless, then these friends who formed a band at the tender age of 17 have lived to cross the line and fuse the two worlds. Their newest release, 2002's *American Paradox*, navigates this journey with a finesse and fine-tuning that punks will love, jocks will cringe at, and parents still won't understand. Stand-outs on this record include the tracks, *Alien Amplifier* and *UnKoil*, that lament the end of security and peace with the passing of an unknown lover/friend/mentor and the strong final song, *Cemetery*, is an anthem in the making. For a bunch of friends who sought out music as a refuge in grade 12 and parlayed their salvation into a career, Strung Out has come a long way and defied even the most American of Paradoxes.

*Strung Out is on tour now in support of American Paradox.*



musings and moanings of more than just an indiepop scenester seeking notoriety in this fair city of ours. Realistically, I promise nothing and everything: a healthy dose of local and other music and some behind-the-scenes gossip now and then, paired with occasional dabbling into films, theatre, plate-throwing or any other creative expression that tickles my fancy enough to think it may just tickle yours. Armed with dancing shoes and earplugs (essential) let's hit the streets and together make sense of the posturing mayhem that is the Toronto music scene.

*Vanessa Meadu studies Politics and English at Innis by day but stalks the downtown beat for neumu.net by night. In the spirit of democracy and openness, suggestions and criticism are readily accepted at [innis\\_pulsebeat@yahoo.com](mailto:innis_pulsebeat@yahoo.com).*



by Ahreum Han



## Film

## Innis wants to take you to the movies

Laura Bil introduces the film section.

The Herald will pay for anyone to see at least one film this year. See a film, write 250 words and you have a short-form review. If you just can't stop writing, make it a long-form feature.

All you have to do is call me, Lo at (416) 230-9794, and tell me why you want to see this movie. If there's a reason, I'll let you know if there is space, and you are off to the movies.

Even if the reason is that this cutie said Spy Kids 2 was the coolest movie ever and you want to say you saw it, I would say that's a very good reason to go and see a movie. Yes, you have to write something but it doesn't have to be high in production values. A gut reaction is often way more interesting.

An alternative is to keep the receipt when you see a movie or a view, write some stuff on paper and tack it up with your name and number on the corkboard outside the Innis Herald office at the back of Carrotheads cafe.

If there is space in the next issue to print your darkest spectatorial thoughts, we'll give you a call and reimburse you for your ticket.

If you get really into the film-gor cinephile mode of thinking as the studies progress, try writing "The Place of Cinema" or "Film Snob" columns, and we will also, gladly, pay you to see a

movie.

"The Place of Cinema" column is a place to write about a movie venue that you felt a strong reaction to for whatever reason: the seats were cozy; wow they still hang red curtains in front of the screen; or the concession seller is unexpectedly quirky. This is my pet experiment to see how the experience of going to the movies affects people.

The "Film Snob" column is a place to revel the kind of material that one might call pompous or the overly analytical, the kind of cinematic discourse that makes family members squirm and old acquaintances find alarming. If you want to say it anyway because for some reason it sounds great, the Film Snob column is a fast and easy alternative means of expression on the aesthetic of talking film.

Feel free to stop by the Helald Office sometime and talk about film, make submissions or suggest improvements. Tell me any Hollywood related gripes, there are always Hollywood related gripes, bring gossip from an on-campus set, comments about the cinema studies programme, whatever - and we'll work it into an article.

Yes, there is space for everyone at the Herald. Let us know what your eyes have seen and we will pay for the ticket.

## The Place of Cinema

An open column.

by Laura Bil

I go into the Carlton, just like any day - by myself. Because it is just one of Those Kinds of Places. Not like the Metro at Bloor and Ossington, the porn theatre that doubles as an art space for Pleasure Dome and more recently for a theatre-dance piece at the Summerworks Festival. No, the Carlton Cinema is down and dirty, the unofficial porn theatre for cinephiles, politely wrapped up in a Cineplex Odeon megaplex package.

Knowing nothing about the comedienne Margaret Cho, I see an innocuous title "Notorious C.H.O." in the listings and I'm thinking, "Hey that's the dame I heard about and there is a movie version of her show. How convenient. What an elegant solution." So I go to the Carlton.

Hanging out with the staff. I like that. Makes me feel at home to know they are not at all professional here. Makes me feel at home to think no one notices, let alone cares that I'm coming to the movies BY MYSELF on a Friday afternoon.

I've missed the trailers and we start right in. When my eyes adjust, I realize it's me and only one other woman in the theatre. I'm dead center and she is off to one side, ready to jump ship if she's not into Magsie after all.

So it's all coming together, see? I always thought the Carlton would be good for this you know? At the helm of identifying porn for gals or something; like it was doing anyway for ages, all these lone cowgirl patrons. This experience just confirms it.

Then I see Maggy's folks as a part of the show. You can't have porn without the parents I guess. That just adds to the edge-of-your seat factor - potentially possible in a non-identified porn theatre for women.

Some lispys teens join us. They sit in the back row. They laugh out loud. They make cat calls. They are boys. Boys in a woman's porn theatre aren't diplomatic enough, they interrupt our decadent discrimination and sensual opinions with their snickers and guffaws.

That's fine actually, it's better to have some company. Better not to take this too seriously. Because it's not really a porn theatre, not really a porn show. Maggie is actually sweet as American pie. Like she's telling us that getting up to no good in a world of undesirable male role models and way too much advertising is just about, natural.

So that's it. The Carlton. Please come again.

*This column is open to anyone who wants to disclose how and where they go to the movies. It doesn't even need to make much sense.*

The success of this movie could translate into a higher level of Canadian film being widely distributed and, in turn, more chances will be given to Canadian filmmakers in future. Toaster, the parting gift from this Wedding is not a toaster but rather a contribution to a fledgling industry and a chance at some genuine laughs.

## Eat, drink and be married

### "My Big Fat Greek Wedding"

by Laura Bil

This comedy of errors is almost a walking contradiction. Though it centers on the experiences of a select group of people, the jokes in My Big Fat Greek Wedding somehow transcend the nuanced minority that they are aimed at and appeal to almost everyone. The experiences of being an outsider that I'm sure most people can relate to are coupled with unique montages that few non-Greek people can emphasize with, such as having our house dressed up as the Parthenon or our grandmother constantly turning up in odd places in the middle of night because she hates the Turks. Don't let the title fool you, however, because these jokes are aimed at the comedy of humanity and this fable is not only about being Greek.

The performances carry the show and make the old farce seem new. In particular, Nia Vardalos is incredibly charming as Toula, the daughter who follows a dream and comes into her own as the rightful star of this family show. Her relationship with her mother becomes a highlight of the movie as it underscores the need for a collective history to bind generations and make life seem more manageable.

In regards to the construction of the film, what struck me the most is how the wedding is portrayed in a manner similar to a machine co-existing with the bride and groom. Toula didn't say too much, she just let people do things for her and kept her faith in the groom as that is what really



"My Big Fat Greek Wedding" opened August 16th at Alliance Atlantis Cinemas

matters to her. Proving that this is the important detail, the wedding went on without a hitch, allowing for a maximum potential of well-intentioned relatives to play out their flaws offering many, many laughs to the theatre audience.

The story appears to be set in the 1980's. My Big Fat Greek Wedding can be interpreted as a statement on the forms of subtle and more obvious racism that is still experienced today. A lthough shot in Toronto with a local crew, the film is set in Chicago although the script remains fairly apolitical.

Speaking of culture at large, another point of note is that My Big Fat Greek Wedding is being distributed by Equinox, a Canadian distributor other than the leading Alliance Atlantis. So beyond getting a good laugh for your buck, if you see this movie, you'll be helping to raise the profile of an independant underdog in the film industry.



## Rushmore is one helluva movie

Marlene Leung reviews CINSSU's first Free Friday Film.

*'That's funny my first choices are Oxford or the Sorbonne. Harvard's my safety.'* - Max Fischer

Appreciating Max Fischer, the main character in director Wes Anderson's classic tale of academia is like peeling an onion: there are lots of layers to get through. The first time I saw Rushmore I didn't like it. The second time I saw it I bought it on video the next day and it has since become one of my favorite movies. Delving into the strange world of adolescence, Anderson presents us with a movie version of J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, complete with a modern day version of Salinger's Holden Caulfield: troubled teen Max Fischer.

Rushmore is the name of the elite private school that Max Fischer, an ambitious and rebellious 10<sup>th</sup> grader attends. Although Max is one of the worst students there, his drive and 'fuck authority' attitude put him in control of the campus. In short he is *the* big man on campus. In Max Fischer, Anderson creates a version of the "school nerd" that everyone avoided in high school. However Max is not just any nerd. He is a smooth talking ladies man, straightforward business man, expressive tortured artist, fast scheming enemy and above all a sensitive 15 year old boy. Armed with some of the funniest one-liners I've ever heard, Max Fischer is the complete protagonist hero.

You want him to win. Played by the very talented Jason Schwartzman, you will fall in love with Max by the end of the film (or at the very least want to have a friend just like him).

The excellent character development doesn't stop at Max. Equally interesting and complete characters are found in Max's best friend, steel tycoon Mr. Blume (played by Bill Murray) and Miss. Cross, Max's love interest (played by Olivia Williams). The complicated love triangle that ensues between these three results in a beautiful and hilarious story of ambition, love, adolescence and friendship. See this movie, because it's damn good.

## Whatever happened to Lucy Lu?

One woman's dance on the thin line between crime and sanctuary.

by **Stephanie Silverman**

*This article is the reason why I left The Varsity for the Herald. The version that you are about to read has never before been published, on campus or off, for fear of repercussions from Ms. Lu and her fiancé. I was disappointed with The Varsity's overwhelming fear of being cited for libel and the resultant suffering of such a noble profession. I feel that my article was unfairly censored and that, if the role of journalism is to ask tough questions of society, then the role of the free and independent media is to be the platform for these inquiries. Hence, why I felt the need to reprint this article in its authentic form.*

"Whatever happened to Lucy Lu...you know, the other one?", my roommate asks one day as I am talking to her about the future of my burgeoning reporting career. I take great pains to reiterate the finer intricacies of the tale, to impart all of the mysteries and contradictions inherent in such a complicated story. In the end, all I get is a look akin to that of a startled child, and a definite nod accompanied by a "Good luck on that!"

Indeed, in order to wrangle such a story down through use of the written word, it is necessary to focus on the past, the victorious present, and the uncertain future of this Chinese immigrant. From there, only speculations on motive, witness, and the like are left, and it is not right to unduly complicate further what is already agreed upon by all to be a "very complex case". Thus, this report on love, murder, intrigue, and, perhaps most importantly, the role of the government and its responsibilities will be explained in terms of one woman, Lu, and her story.

### The Details

On 13 March, 1985, He Zhang Zhao was hacked to death with a meat cleaver in his downtown Toronto walk-up and dragged outside to die in the snow. The Chinese national had been living with his wife, Kuei Kuan Zhao, alias Kue Fuen Zhao, aka Lucy Lu, and his father at the

time. In time, after three mistrials, Lu entered a guilty plea bargain with the Ontario courts for the murder and was given a ten-year sentence. Since she was not a Canadian citizen at the time of her conviction, Canadian law stipulates that she must be sent back to China as she is considered "unwanted" here because of her conviction.

Lucy went to jail with the threat of deportation hanging as an albatross around her neck. While in prison, Lu made the acquaintance of a shoe-store owner and his wife who were doing Christian outreach with the prisoners at Lucy's penitentiary, the Kingston Prison for Women. According to Lu, she "found" Jesus while incarcerated and has formed a deep bond both with Christ and with the couple from Kingston. Lu says that she also attended church services in Toronto but that she cannot remember details from these excursions, such as the sect of Christianity or the name of the church, except the number of the streetcar that delivered her there. After serving approximately 2 years and change at the Prison for Women, Lu was released and decided to settle in Kingston and build a life for herself. She claims that there was nothing to go back to in Toronto since she has not spoken to her former father-in-law since the trial, and does not care to see her friends again. In Kingston, on the other hand, she was able to find a job in the couple's shoe store, a new husband who has stood by her through every tribulation of her trial, and a new life. Then it all crashed down again when she received notice that the long-awaited date of her deportation had arrived, and that this date was scheduled for thirty days after that of her marriage ceremony.

### The Past

Upon receiving her deportation order, Lu naturally tried to fight it. She applied for refugee status, but that failed. Then she appealed on humanitarian and compassionate grounds, but this attempt to stay her deportation was also rejected. Her dealings through her lawyers seemed fruitless

to her and her new husband, Darryl Gellner, and their displeasure can be seen in their record of eleven lawyers. As a last-ditch attempt to remain in Canada, Lu entered the church where she had remarried, where she had attended services, and then where she remained for over a year to avoid deportation. Interestingly, Lu claims that it was neither her nor her husband's idea to seek sanctuary in the Calvary Bible Church but rather it was on the advice of their spiritual leader who actually died before the plan was undertaken. The couple cannot remember the names of anyone else who might have assisted them in persuading the church, but are adamant that the members of the church board, along with the greater Kingston community, are "100 per cent behind this".

Her life in the church consisted of many mundane activities that included playing board games, talking to the neighbourhood women who would come and chat, and bathing herself in a large basin. Her husband, meanwhile, took up the crusade and contacted as many influential Ontarians and media sources as he could. Gellner also took an apartment outside of the church, although he maintains that he slept in the nursery every night with Lucy. Together with sympathetic public figures who wrote articles, spoke on call-in radio shows, and wrote letters, Gellner managed to solicit somewhere between 10,000 and 100,000 letters of support (the exact figures are contested). In conversation, Gellner refers to constructive comments and promises of support from such figures as Peter Milliken and Mendel Greene (who were both "unavailable" for comment on her case). He also speaks with adoration of local news reporter Annette Phillips and the Christian groups who rallied to Lucy's cause, some of whom once even compared her journey to that of Christ in a recent *Globe and Mail* op-ed.

Gellner claims that as a result of this immense public pressure, the government finally continued on last page...

## Feature



## Whatever happened to Lucy Lu?

...continued from page 7.

backed down from the stalemate to which the opposing groups had been reduced. Earlier, Rejean Cantlon, spokesman for the Ministry of Immigration, had articulated his ministry's ideological belief that it had to "respect the sanctity of the church" and would wait until Lucy enacted "effective removal from the church on her own". He also spoke of the differences between men and women and how perhaps Lucy's gender could have played a role in the late arrival of her papers from China—the standard explanation for the delay in her receiving the deportation order. These assertions raise some tricky questions for the government, one of the more pressing ones being if the ancient law of sanctuary should still be followed in these multicultural and multi-religious times. Now, Cantlon is unavailable for comment and refers all queries to Milliken, the speaker of the House of Commons who is also mysteriously absent from work. What is available, however, is the written proof that the government waited until the eye of the storm had passed and then backed

down. Gellner says that the three-year stay of deportation is the work of the incoming Citizenship and Immigration Minister, Dennis Coderre, who wanted to clean the house of his predecessor, Elinor Caplan, before taking the helm. If this is true, why then was Lu given only a temporary reprieve and not a complete pardon?

### The Future

In any case, Darryll and Lucy are no doubt ecstatic about her release from the church. They have won this round of the battle, and chalk up the bulk of their problems with the government to "politics". Gellner also says that he is being restricted by his own morals as well as the advice of his lawyers to not mention what the particular nature of these politics is since his accusations implicate a sitting judge on the Ontario circuit. Lucy has resumed her job at the shoe store and they have moved into Darryll's apartment. Inconveniently for time logging purposes, Darryll cannot remember the exact date that his wife

received word that the government had recounted and that she would once again be allowed to walk the streets outside the church in freedom.

### The Implications

The case of Lucy Lu's fight to stay in Canada continues to provoke controversy and polarize people's opinions. On the one hand, Lu has paid her debt to society and should not be forced to return to a country that she claims will try her once again for the same crime; on the other, if exceptions are made for one woman, then it is quite possible for instances to arise in the future wherein claimants will turn to the Lu case as a precedent. This possibility undermines the vested authority of the laws of the Canadian government and the men and women who are entrusted to protect them. Further, what if Lu had been a man convicted of murdering his partner and it had never been proven that either member of this theoretical couple had been abusive? While these are several of the troubling consequences of this case, they in no way cover all of the moral and ethical implications that Lu's plight raises both for our government, that of China, and the greater court of public opinion. It is quite possible that even three years from now, many of us will still be waiting for the real answer to the question, "Whatever happened to Lucy Lu?"

*Since the initial publication of the censored version of this article in The Varsity late last academic year, much has changed in this case. For starters, the entrance on the political stage of a new immigration minister has meant that Lucy's case has been dismissed. She has been allowed to stay in Canada and is currently back at her old job at the shoe store. With Darryll by her side, Lucy hopes to forget about the past and start a family in Kingston soon.*

### Melissa Tee welcomes you to university.



Help! Where's Con Hall?



MT '92

## Events Calendar

### Life Sciences – Q&A for First Years

Panel discussion for first-year students with upper-year students, staff of the Office of the COSSAR, and professors.

5-6:30pm - Innis Residence Event Room  
tues 24 Sept

### Innis College's Academic Support Program

Be sure to participate in Innis College's Academic Support Program.

These seminars will teach you how to succeed in critical areas of your academic life. Seminars will be held in Room 223, Innis College.

4-5pm - Room 223, Innis College

wed 23 Oct Writing an 'A' Essay

wed 30 Oct Time Management

wed 6 Nov Memory and Concentration

wed 13 Nov Writing Multiple Choice Exams

wed 20 Nov Writing Essay Exams

### Innis College Booksale

Check out your book shelves & closets and get your donations in.

9am-6pm - Innis College Pit

tues 24 Sept - thurs 26 Sept

### UHIP Information Session

University Health Insurance Plan

Sign up at 33 St. George St. 416-978-0290

10-11:30am - Intentional Student Center

thurs 5 Sept

### Toronto Women's Bookstore Textbook Buyback

12-4pm - 73 Harbour St, West of Spadina

sept 4 wed - sept 7 sat

### Toronto International Film Festival

wed 4 sept - sun 15 sept

### Professional Faculties Seminars

These seminars provide an opportunity for students to learn about admissions requirements, application procedures and curriculum.

1-2pm - Innis Residence Event Room

thurs 10 Oct -Medicine

thurs 17 Oct -Dentistry

thurs 24 Oct -Teaching

### L.I.E.T. - Salon de Represse

Innis College Town Hall

sept 10 tues

### Campus Cooperative Meeting

sept 22

Planet in Focus Film Festival

Toronto Environmental Film and Video Festival

sept 25 wed- sept 29 sun

